

**CITY OF NORWALK
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
July 8, 2020**

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ATTENDANCE: Darlene Young, Chair; George Tsiranides; Manny Langella;
Thomas Keegan; Kadeem Roberts; John Kydes; George
Theodoridis; David Heuvelman

STAFF: Nick Roberts, Director

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Young called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and stated that a quorum was present.

II. MINUTES OF JUNE 10, 2020

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ADDENDUM NO 1 WITH LAND-TECH CONSULTANTS, INC. FOR THE DESIGN SERVICES FOR PROJECT NO. 3860 WEST ROCKS MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELD DESIGN SERVICES, DATED JANUARY 10, 2019, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$32,300.00 FOR SURVEYING AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES . ACCOUNT #'S 09206030-5777-C0631, 09216030-5777-C0631.

Mr. Roberts said this is for the survey as well as the construction administration for the soccer complex at West Rocks School. Mr. Tsiranides said this is a great project and that those fields get a lot of use.

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. A) AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH H.I. STONE & SON, INC. FOR PROJECT RNP2020-2 WEST ROCKS MIDDLE SCHOOL PROPOSED SOCCER FIELD COMPLEX FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$ 1,026,000 (BASE BID), \$236,000.00 (LIGHTING AND PARKING LOT ALTERNATE), \$279,000.00 (CONCESSION STAND ALTERNATE), \$131,000.00 (TERRACED SEAT WALL ALTERNATE, AND \$30,000.00 (SAFETY NETTING ALTERNATE). ACCOUNT # 'S 09206030-5777-C0631, 09216030-5777-C0631

Mr. Roberts said this is a capital project that was approved for this fiscal year and is for the construction of the soccer field complex, and there is a total of \$2.4 million dollars for the construction. Mr. Kydes asked if the operation of the concession stand will be leased. Mr. Roberts said the home organization normally has rights to the concession stand and generally use it as a fundraiser to raise funds for their program, but he is unsure if it has been put out to bid in the past but he will verify. Mr. Kydes asked if the concession stand was always a part of this plan. Mr. Roberts said "yes" but it is more for the bathrooms and is a bathroom/concession

and being that the field will be turfed there will be extended play. Mr. Tsirinides asked if there is any liability to the city for the operation of the concession stand. Mr. Roberts said all of the organizations are required to submit proof of insurance which would cover the use of the concession stand. Mr. Roberts said at Nathan Hale the concession stand and rest rooms were done after the fact and had to be done in three parts and by doing it after the project was completed is costing approximately \$290,000 for the concession building, but doing it as part of this project will cost less than \$250,000. He said it is his recommendation that anywhere there is turf field and lighting that there is a bathroom installed because there will be extended ability to play and longer hours.

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B) AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH H.I. STONE& SON, INC. FOR PROJECT RNP2020-2 WEST ROCKS MIDDLE SCHOOL PROPOSED SOCCER FIELD COMPLEX FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$170,200.00. ACCOUNT # 'S 09206030-5777-C0631, 09216030-5777-C0631.

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. A) AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FIELD TURF USA, INC. (SOLE SOURCE) FOR THE SYNTHETIC TURF SURFACE AT WEST ROCKS SCHOOL PROPOSED SOCCER FIELD COMPLEX FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$443,088.00 ACCOUNT # 'S 09206030-5777-C0631,09216030-5777-C0631.

Mr. Roberts said this project is also part of the \$2.4 million dollar capital project and he addressed some of the concerns that residents may have regarding the turf field. He said there are approximately 1200 fields installed in the United States annually and out of those 1200 fields 80% of them utilize crumb rubber. There are numerous studies that have been done both in the United States and in other countries in regards to whether or not crumb rubber leads to an increased risk of cancer and none of those studies have confirmed that potential. In regards to Connecticut itself, the Department of Public Health conducted a risk assessment in 2015 on the very same topic and their report concluded that the risk assessments were not elevated to a range of health concerns for children or adults that played on outdoor turf fields. There were some uncertainties with the study which included the small number of fields that were tested, the limited range of environmental conditions etc. It is all dependent on how long it has been there as well as the condition and the age, but again the eventual findings were that it did not lead to an elevated risk for cancer. There is one more study that is out there that is still pending that the CDC is doing on this topic and is currently under technical peer review and he has spoken with Ms. D'Amore and she is also waiting for the results of that study before we implement any additional measures. He said on this field they will be using a sand and rubber base at the bottom and will have a cool play product on the top which is made with plastic which will also reduce the temperature of the turf and there will be no exposure to the crumb rubber.

Mr. Tsiranides thanked Mr. Roberts and his team for doing their due diligence regarding the turf and he knows there were a lot of concerns and we are obviously looking at a long term investment and from what he just heard he feels this is the best way to go.

Mr. Heuvelman asked what the useful life of the field. Mr. Roberts said 8-10 years but also depends of the usage. Mr. Heuvelman also thanked Mr. Roberts for all the information and found it very insightful.

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B) AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER ON CONTRACT WITH FIELD TURF USA, INC. (SOLE SOURCE) FOR SYNTHETIC TURF SURFACE AT WEST ROCKS SCHOOL PROPOSED SOCCER FIELD COMPLEX FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$44,308.00 ACCOUNT # 'S 09206030-5777-C0631,09216030-5777-C0631.

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO C.N. WOOD OF CONNECTICUT, LLC FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) TRACKLESS MT7 ARTICULATING TRACTOR AND V-PLOW ATTACHMENT NOT TO EXCEED \$130,955.00. ACCOUNT # 'S 09186030-5777-C0486,09196030-5777-C0486.

Mr. Roberts said this V-plow tractor primarily was to replace a 15 year old plow that was being used for snow removal at the schools. He said they were dependent on one machine and will have the older machine as a backup and having two will give them the ability to clear the schools much faster. He said there are also attachments available to use as a mower so not only will they be able to use this for winter operations but are hoping to have a second ball field crew that will be able to have a mower to take care of the fields.

****MR. ROBERTS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH M.E. O'BRIEN & SONS (SOLE SOURCE) STATE CONTRACT# 17PSX0081 FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF PLAY EQUIPMENT AND ENGINEERED WOODFIBER SAFETY SURFACING AT TRACEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR A SUM

NO TO EXCEED \$119,198.00. ACCOUNT # 'S 09206030-5777-C0364, 09216030-5777-C0364.

Mr. Roberts said both items 5 and 6 are playground replacements and Silvermine is one of the oldest playgrounds and is 21 years old, and the same with the playground at Tracey School and a portion of that playground was replaced five years ago but the rest of the playground is approximately 18 years old so both of these capital projects resulted in new playgrounds at both of the schools. He said the reason they are requesting a sole source with M.E. O'Brien & Sons is that they are the only distributor of Landscape Playground Equipment which is what is on all of the playgrounds with the exception of the one at Oyster Shell Park which was a donation which makes the parts interchangeable throughout the system. Ms. Young asked if either of the schools are slated for any project that would impact what we are doing. Mr. Roberts said "no".

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH M.E. O'BRIEN & SONS (SOLE SOURCE) STATE CONTRACT# 17PSX0081 FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF PLAY EQUIPMENT AT SILVERMINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$147,983.00. ACCOUNT # 'S 09206030-5777-C0364, 0921030-5777-C0364.

Mr. Roberts said this is the same as what discussed under item 5 of the agenda and there is a state contract so there is a reduced cost on the playgrounds.

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ADDENDUM NO. 1 FGB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR PROJECT DPW RNP2020-1 NATHAN HALE MIDDLE SCHOOL BATHROOM- CONCESSION BUILDING SITE WORK FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$67,570.00. ACCOUNT # 014150-5585 .

Mr. Roberts said that the work was originally going to be done with in-house staff but after looking at it decided it would take too much time and the timing was not good with all of the other responsibilities with the maintenance of the fields and the beach. He said he was able to take some funds from the operating account to cover the cost of the site work. Mr. Roberts pointed out that when the project was complete they had to use porta lets at a brand new field and it was not a good look and the cost is approximately \$400 per month, and by adding a bathroom as opposed to porta lets will give an opportunity to the clubs to raise money for their programs and provide better service to the community.

**** MR. LANGELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. DISCUSSION

Ms. Young asked if there has been any impact to the Governor postponing phase III of the reopening plan. Mr. Roberts said “yes” because they were looking at possibly allowing events which will now be postponed. He said they were also looking at start adult sports and that maybe also be postponed but all of the facilities are open so as far as the operations there has not been much of an impact.

Ms. Young asked the status of the boat ramps. Mr. Roberts said currently they are open Wednesday through Sunday but have received complaints to open it on Monday and Tuesday, but part of the issue is the boat staff that had been there were all high risk for covid-19, so the positions for boating attendants had to be posted and interviews will be conducted next week and are hoping to have the boat ramps open seven days a week beginning July 20, 2020.

Mr. Heuvelman asked if there are any plans to keep the non-resident parking at Taylor Farm after Covid-19 pandemic is over. Mr. Roberts said “no” they have not discussed that and currently the lot is open at 75% and have only reached capacity two days the entire summer.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. ROBERTS MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd